

REMARKS

The Office Action has indicated that claims 1-17 and 29-34 are allowable. The Office Action has rejected claims 18-23, 25-28 and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Snyder. An objection was entered as to dependent claim 24. The rejected independent claims are claims 18, 25 and 35.

Snyder

Snyder provides a system as shown in Figs. 1, 4A and 4B in which a telephone 18 and a line powered device 10 are described. The line powered device 10 includes a hookswitch 44. When the handset of the telephone 18 is removed, the loop detector / slope control circuit 38 provides an optical signal to the switch 40 (switch 40 shown in Figure 6) so as to actuate a closure of the hookswitch 44. When the handset of the telephone 18 is again placed down, the loop detector /slope control circuit 38 detects this event also and changes the optical signal to the switch 40 so as to cause the hookswitch 44 to open.

When the hookswitch is closed by activity of the handset of the telephone 18, either the telephone 18 or the line powered device 10 may communicate with the phone line. After the hookswitch is closed by removing the handset, the line powered device 10 is placed in a standby mode. The line powered device may then be fully activated by a card swipe occurring. In such case the telephone 18 is then disconnected from the line while the hookswitch 44 remains closed. When the line powered device 10 has completed its activity, the hookswitch 44 remains closed and the telephone is again connected to the phone line and the line powered device is placed in standby mode again. The hookswitch 44 may ultimately be opened again when the handset of telephone 18 is placed down as detected by the loop detector / slope control circuit 38.

As described in the Office Action, the loop detector / slope control circuit 38 operates as a hookswitch control node 38 carrying a hookswitch control signal.

It is respectfully submitted that Snyder lacks elements of each of the rejected independent claims (claims 18, 25 and 35). For example claim 18 includes: "at least one variable current

circuit responsive to the hookswitch control signal to decrease a current drawn from the phone line prior to changing the state of a hookswitch.” However, the signal in Snyder that is generated by the loop detector / slope control circuit is merely provided to the switch 40 which operates to merely close the hookswitch 44 itself of Snyder. [Snyder Figure 4A and 6]. Thus, the decrease of current drawn as a result of the hookswitch signal is only the decrease that is provided by the hookswitch transistor itself. There is no variable current circuit that is responsive to the hookswitch control signal to decrease current drawn from the phone line prior to changing the state of the hookswitch.

Similarly, independent claim 25 includes “adjusting downward the current drawn from the phone line in response to the signal prior to changing the hookswitch from the off-hook state to the on-hook state.” Again, the hookswitch signal of Snyder merely changes the hookswitch and does not downwardly change the current drawn from the phone line prior to changing the hookswitch.

Likewise, independent claim 35 includes:

“at least one current control circuit coupled to the node to receive the hookswitch signal, the current control circuit coupled to at least one output of the integrated circuit, the current control circuit operating prior to the completion of a hookswitch transition to enable a decrease in a current level drawn from the phone line.”

Once again, the hookswitch signal of Snyder is not provided to a circuit that allows a decrease in current level drawn from the phone line prior to a hookswitch transition completion, but rather the hookswitch signal of Snyder merely changes the state of the hookswitch.

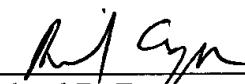
As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 18, 25 and 35 (and all claims depending therefrom) are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,


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